

TIALS-2 RFP Questions and Answers (2)

No.	Section	Page	Question/Comment	Answer
64	Provision L.19	L-26	If each CLIN is added up individually it equals the Governments total of \$24,056,000. However, when adding each Contract Year's Grand Total it equals \$24,056,029. Which amount is correct?	<i>The \$29.00, or 0.0001% difference, is due to software rounding.</i>
65	Appendix Z		Tabs ILRT and IRT have multiple hidden lines and duplicates for Contract Years 6 and 7. May Offerors delete unused rows and columns throughout the Appendix Z? In addition to easing the Government's evaluation process, this will allow for simplified printing.	<i>The hidden rows and columns are for expansion, RFP L.19 2 a. "For pricing purposes, the Offeror shall use the start date of May 1, 2015. The provided cost templates are designed to accommodate a performance period of up to ten CYs. The Excel® templates have hidden columns for the CY not used." Attachment Z has references to cell and formulas that may be compromised by the deletion of rows and columns. It is the Offeror's responsibility to have accurate self-calculating spreadsheets. (See RFP, L.19, Cost Volume, Part 2 - Excel Pricing Model (EPM), f.)</i>
66	Provision L.10	L-9	Determination of Compensation Reasonableness. Is it correct to assume that the Prime Offerors shall not include each proposed service subcontractor's compensation reasonableness information within the Prime's "Mission Suitability Proposal" and that each proposed service subcontractor will include the required compensation reasonableness information within their sealed Volume III COST/PRICE bid package?	<i>See the response to Question # 21.</i>
67	Provision L.29	L-23	This section refers to the "Summary Template, part of the Excel Pricing Model", which is to include the price for Phase-In, base effort and all Options. Is it correct to assume that Offerors shall in their FFP phase-in cost/price within the CPFF base year on the Attachment Y, Project Summary Template? If not, please clarify where Offerors shall include their Phase-in costs.	<i>We are unable to understand the question. We do offer the following: Phase-In is a separate price, not part of contract year 1.</i>
68	Provision L.10	L-9	Since Offerors must provide the benefits required by all current contract applicable CBA agreements and SCA mandated benefits, will the Government consider revising and delete the requirement for including a full description of provided non-professional employee benefits. All Offerors shall include a complete description of exempt professional employee benefits only for this section.	<i>No. CBA and SCA amounts are minimums, Offerors may propose at their discretion higher amounts. Also, offerors are strongly encouraged to become familiar with the Service Contract Act, Section 4 which discusses successorship.</i>

TIALS-2 RFP Questions and Answers (2)

No.	Section	Page	Question/Comment	Answer
69	Provision L.19	L-29	May Offerors delete unused rows and columns throughout the Excel Pricing Model (EPM)? In addition to easing the Government's evaluation process, this will allow for simplified printing. Cost Volume, Part 2 – Excel Pricing Model (EPM). Cost Summary Template, Tabs CST 01-CST 08, Row 45 is for the Government NLR estimate, provided in Section L, page L-26. This information included in this row is not included in the total calculations found in Row 51. Is this correct? Also this row is not included in the calculation that summarizes or totals all of the information in Column T. Is this correct?	<i>For both questions see answer to #65, above, for same issue. (See RFP, L.19, Cost Volume, Part 2 - Excel Pricing Model (EPM), f.)</i>
70	Provision L.19	L-33	Can Offerors add additional tabs to the EPM that meet the requirements of the OPM and the Offerors DCAA approved accounting system policies and procedures and submit just one file instead of two files?	<i>The EPM shall be submitted as formatted. Offerors may provide a written statement that they consider the EPM to be their OPM in Part 3.</i>
71	Clause B.2	B-1	It appears that the RFP Table B.2 chart might include an error. If the Award Terms are Year 6 and 7, shouldn't their type of contract be CPFF/AT? Instead of the CPFF/AT reflected in Years 4 and 5, as shown in the Table B2 chart?	<i>No. While contract years 6 and 7 are the earned award terms, they are earned in years 4 and 5.</i>
72	RFP Q&A #56 and Provision L.19 Cost Volume Part 3 (g)	L-33	Can the Government please clarify that the Cost Volume Part 3 and 4 are indeed in separate volumes or is the use of separate binders at the discretion of the bidder for convenience sake.	<i>The use of separate binders is at the discretion of the Offeror for convenience sake.</i>
73	RFP Q&A #54		The Government stated two electronic copies of Volume II, one of which is a backup. Based on L-20, Section K, please clarify its 2 electronic copies of Volume III versus Volume II.	<i>Yes, the response to question #54 has a typo and should say that there are 2 electronic copies of Volume III, as stated in Provision L.19.k on page L-20</i>
74			As the Key Personnel resumes are excluded from page count, would the Government accept these included as an Attachment?	<i>Yes, in the appropriate Volume.</i>
75	Provision L.17, TA1	L-14	Please confirm that the Government is looking for a discussion of skills, techniques, and rationale to be used in the performance of the work for only the Task Areas, and B-E apply to the overall approach rather than B-E apply to each Task Area as well.	<i>Items a, c & d apply to each task area. Items b and e apply to the overall approach rather than to each task area.</i>
76	DRFP Q&A #95 and RFP Q&A #7		DRFP Q&A Answer to #95 b. instructs bidders to "flat line" CBA rates and an equitable adjustment will be negotiated after the CBA is finalized. Question #7 of the RFP questions instructs bidders to escalate CBA wages. Please clarify.	<i>For proposal purposes escalate the CBA wages.</i>

TIALS-2 RFP Questions and Answers (2)

No.	Section	Page	Question/Comment	Answer
77	Provision L.14, (c)	L-12	Paragraph (c) of the instructions for Communications Regarding This Solicitation states that “Questions or comments should be submitted by 4:30pm, local time, Aug. 14, 2014...” This was the due date for the Draft RFP. Will the Government please provide an updated due date for Final RFP questions.	<i>This was corrected in Amendment No. 1 to the RFP which was issued on Sept. 25, 2014.</i>
78	Provision L.17	L-14	The RFP specifies that “Offerors shall provide a matrix identifying where such requirements [the SOW] are addressed in this volume”. Shall this matrix be part of the Table of Contents and, therefore, not included in page count, as specified for the cross-reference matrix to other volumes?	<i>Yes.</i>
79	Section C, 6.2.b, d	C-70	Is the Instrument Pool Equipment Database owned by the Government or the Incumbent? If it is owned by the Incumbent, will the new contractor have to develop another database to report to N-PROP? Or, will the Government purchase the database from the Incumbent to include the historical data? If the Government does not plan to purchase the database, is it safe to assume the new contractor will be starting from scratch in terms of capturing the equipment inventory and usage or does the Government prefer the new contractor purchase the database from the Incumbent as part of the NLR (non-labor resources)?	<i>The Instrument Pool database (DB) and associated programming are owned by the government. This database is NOT coupled to N-PROP. It is a stand-alone DB solely for tracking the measuring and test equipment in the Pool and what has been issued from the Pool. The DB is housed on a government server and the interface software for the customers to search, and Metrology Services to report, is written for data extraction from this DB. TIALS 2 awardee will be provided the DB and tools written for it.</i>
80	Attachment G, page 4		For the items listed as “Custom / Developer,” will the Contractor be required to develop any coding to operate/maintain the systems? For the items listed as “COTS,” is the Contractor required to maintain the licenses for the applications (purchase, installation, etc.).	<i>For the most part, no further coding is needed on existing systems. However, in the case of a system enhancement or OS/other system software upgrade, additional coding may be required. Yes, the Contractor is required to maintain license records of non-ACES COTS software installed on systems they use and operate.</i>
81	Appendix B		Since the Government did not provide the labor qualifications for the Metrology positions, explain how the Contractor can cross-reference the “proposed” labor categories to their internal labor categories to ensure the Contractor meets GRC Metrology Labor Force requirements.	<i>Appendix B does not provide labor qualifications for the vast majority of positions under the proposed contract. The Offeror is expected to use their best judgment in proposing labor capable of meeting the requirements of the Statement of Work.</i>

TIALS-2 RFP Questions and Answers (2)

No.	Section	Page	Question/Comment	Answer
82	Provision L.17.B.MP3. b	L-16	In Subfactor B, Section MP3, Paragraph b, Offerors are instructed to provide staffing numbers for all of the work areas. In order to completely address all other requirements in the Subfactor, would the Government consider exempting work area staffing numbers from the page count?	<i>No. It is the Government's experience that this information is typically provided in a 1 or 2 page chart.</i>
83	Provision L.10	L-9	As each of the subcontractors must submit a TCP following A-C, does the subcontractors TCP count against the Primes 50 page Volume I limit even though it will be part of their Cost Volume / Separate Submission?	<i>See the response to Question # 21.</i>
84	Provision L.8	L-8	To ensure greater legibility and comprehensibility for SEB evaluators, please confirm that the Government will accept no smaller than 10 point Arial Narrow type for tables, figures, and graphics.	<i>The cited provision states that the Government will accept no smaller than 10 point Times New Roman type for tables, figures and graphics.</i>
85	Provision L.17	L-14	RFP instructions for the Technical Approach state that "The narrative shall include information specific to each of the task areas in the SOW and shall address all of the following". One of those elements is: "(b) A discussion of the overall approach to risk management, identification of the top 5 risks and the appropriate mitigation strategy." (i) In reference to "the top 5 risks", is it the Government's intention to have Offerors provide the top 5 risks for each SOW task area? (ii) The "approach to risk management" refers to an overall approach. Is it the Government's intention to have Offerors address the overall risk management approach for the entire Technical Approach or to describe the risk management approach for each SOW task area?	<i>Items a, c & d apply to each task area. Items b and e apply to the overall approach rather than to each task area.</i>
86	Provisions L.2 & L.20	L-2 & L-35	There is a requirement to provide specific information on the first page of the Proposal in Section L.2. Does the cover letter for Volume IV referenced in Section L.20 fill this requirement as long as it contains all of the information cited in section L.2?	<i>Yes.</i>
87	Clause B.1	B-1	We have seen references in the RFP to this contract effort 'Technical Information, Administrative, and Logistics Services' as 'TIALS' and also as 'TIALS-2'. For clarification, will the title of the contract in B.1 be 'TIALS 2' or 'TIALS-2'?	<i>It will say TIALS-2 in clause B.1.</i>
88.	Clause H.8 and Provision L.9	H-4 & L-8	Section L.9 states that a detailed description of our general safety and occupational health plan is due within 30 days after	<i>This has been corrected by Amendment 2 to the RFP. The detailed description required by Provision L.9 must be submitted with the proposal,</i>

TIALS-2 RFP Questions and Answers (2)

No.	Section	Page	Question/Comment	Answer
			date of contract award and that the description will be included in the resulting contract. H.8 states that a general safety and health plan description is “submitted with proposal in accordance with solicitation requirements and is hereby incorporated by reference.” H.8 goes on to state that a final, detailed site-specific Safety & Health Plan is to be submitted within 30 days of contract award and, upon approval, it will be incorporated as an Attachment to the contract via modification and replace the description. Section L.9 and H.8 appear to contradict each other. Do we need to submit a S&H Plan description with our proposal? If so, where should it be included?	<i>in Volume IV. It will be incorporated into the contract by reference and later replaced with the approved, site-specific plan required by Clause H.8.</i>
89.	Provision L.18	L-17	The Government references “Paragraph D of this provision”. Provision L.18 does not contain Paragraph D. Please indicate whether this reference is to Paragraph C or if Paragraph D was inadvertently omitted and should be added to the RFP.	<i>This is a reference to Paragraph C.</i>
90.	Provision L.18.A.1.j	L-17	The Government requests “Historical Lost Time Incident Rate (LTIR) per the most recent 200,000 hours worked.” OSHA utilizes 200,000 as a basis for standardizing LTIR for work performed in a year since companies vary in size and the number of reportable hours in a year. For instance, for a large business of over 2000 employees (the approximate size of the TIALS incumbent), the most recent 200,000 hours would be data covering only the most recent 2 ½ weeks. Please confirm that the Government is requesting the OSHA reportable LTIR for the most recent year which is calculated using the formula: # of Incidents X 200,000/# of hours worked in the year. Please also indicate whether the Government requests LTIR for only the most recent year (2013) or requests data for more than one year.	<i>The LTIR requested is for the contract for which past performance information is being provided. While the TIALS incumbent may have approximately 2000 employees, there are only approximately 270 employees on the current TIALS contract. Offerors are requested to provide the LTIR per the most recent 200,00 hours worked, whether all of those hours occurred in one year or over more than one year.</i>
91.	Provision L.18.A.1.i	L-17	In paragraph L.18.1.i, what does GRC want to have discussed in response to “cooperation with prior clients”? This statement is made in context of a specific contract reference. So who are the “prior clients” to a cited contract?	<i>The Agency or Company who placed the cited contract with the Offeror.</i>
92.	Provision L.19, Cost Volume Part I, Section 3	L-25	Does the Governments NLR estimate satisfy the requirement in Section L-25 (i)? (unless the offeror chooses to propose Offeror Unique NLR)	<i>Yes.</i>

TIALS-2 RFP Questions and Answers (2)

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93.	Provision L.19, 3.m.2	L-28	<p>This paragraph states “If the Offeror proposes to use Government production or research property on a no-charge, noninterference basis in performance of this contract, the Offeror will furnish with their proposal an authorization from the contracting officer having cognizance of such property.”</p> <p>Question: If offerors intend to use production property (video, print, other media production) listed in Section J. Attachment B (provided by the government on a no cost basis) who is the cognizant contracting officer and how is authorization obtained for inclusion in the proposal?</p>	<i>This paragraph refers to Government production or research property which the Offeror already has in their possession from another Government contract. The contracting officer for that contract would have to authorize such use on this contract.</i>
94.	Clause I.11	I-10	<p>Section I.11 defines required insurance coverage required. The SOW states that the contractor will be servicing both government owned and other contractor owned vehicles. Attachment C, Government Vehicles maintained by the contractor, has two sections – Section 1, Government Vehicle Fleet and Section 2, Installation Accountable Government Property. Is the TIALS Contractor required to carry insurance on the vehicles listed in both Section 1 and Section 2, or only the vehicles listed in Section 2?</p>	<i>The TIALS-2 contractor is required to carry insurance on the vehicles in Attachment B- List of Installation Accountable Government Property.</i>
95.			<p>Shall we provide a cross-reference (i.e., compliance) matrix in each volume, or just one collective cross-reference matrix (for all four volumes) in Volume I: Mission Suitability?</p>	<i>It is the Offeror’s choice.</i>
96.	Attachments V & W		<p>Attachment V lists truck driver positions as “Union;” however, there is no truck driver category listed in the CBA. Is it correct that the truck driver positions are union? If they are union, what is their correct Logistics category?</p>	<i>As shown in Attachment W, the truck driver positions are union and are Logistics V.</i>
97.			<p>Is the contractor required to provide vehicles for the Metrology function?</p>	<i>No.</i>
98.	Provision L.17, TA2	L-15	<p>For the Technical Scenario (Section L.18, TA2) when does the Government plan for the contractor to execute this task? Does the Government have an anticipated date for the completion of the Z540.3 accreditation?</p>	<i>This is a sample technical scenario and may never be implemented. Therefore, no the Government does not have an anticipated date for the completion of the accreditation.</i>
99.			<p>In developing the labor rates for each labor category, the only available data is industry data. Will the Government provide salary data or salary ranges of the incumbent workforce for developing labor rates for the proposal since their actual current wages may be very different from the industry data?</p>	<i>The wage determination, CBA, and information in Clause I.2 are all the wage information which will be provided at this time.</i>

TIALS-2 RFP Questions and Answers (2)

No.	Section	Page	Question/Comment	Answer
100.	Clause I.2	I-4	In developing rates from Industry data, some labor categories have very different ranges from the GS mapping provided in Section I.2. Can the Government please explain how the GS mapping was determined. Can the Government please reconfirm that the GS levels are appropriate for the positions?	<i>The Government is aware that the wages paid by industry can differ from those paid for essentially the same position within the Government. The mapping was done based on our knowledge of the work performed by each labor category under the current TIALS contract. The GS levels shown are those which would be applied were those same duties being performed by a Government employee.</i>
101	Clause I.2	I-4	If our industry labor rate data varies from the GS pay scale for the mapped level, would that be considered a pricing weakness in the cost evaluation?	<i>Not necessarily. Offerors should carefully explain how they determined the compensation levels in their proposal (e.g. what wage surveys were used).</i>
102			What certifications/accreditations does the Calibration (Metrology) Lab currently have?	<i>None. By mandate from NPD8730.1 we are to be compliant to ANSI/NCSL 540-1 or Z540.3.</i>
103	Attachment A		Throughout the attachment there are references to customer surveys as part of the performance standard, however in the PWS there is only occasional reference to customer surveys (PWS 3.3, 7.5.3.1, 7.14.1.2, and 7.14.2. Is there a center wide customer evaluation survey system? If so, please provide a description and how customers use it to report contractor support and performance.	<i>LTID utilizes a survey application to obtain feedback on contractor performance. Surveys are tailored to individual work areas and specific services. The application is web-based and accessible to all GRC and Plum Brook personnel.</i>
104	Section C.6.a	C-67	The requirement states "Establish NASA metrology standard (NPD 8730.1) compliant subcontracts when in-house repair or calibration capabilities are insufficient." Please confirm that subcontracts currently exist that meet the NPD 8730.1 requirements. If so, please provide information on those contracts.	<i>The requirements of the NPD are mandated for all calibrations and there are hundreds of examples for that is the number of which is outsourced. It is impracticable to provide information on that number of subcontracts. There are rare exceptions when it is impossible to find a qualified supplier for truly unique items which are waived at the local level.</i>
105	RFP Q&A #11		Your answer to question 11 states that the Government does not wish to receive a "second", back-up copy of all solicitation volumes. Does this answer mean that there is a "first" electronic copy required and that we are to submit 1) one hard copy of all volumes, 2) one electronic copy of Volumes I, II, and IV, and 3) 2 electronic copies of volume III.	<i>Please see Provision L.16 on page L-13 of the RFP and Provision L.19.1.k on page L-20 of the RFP.</i>
106	Provision L.17, TA1.a	L-14	This requires a discussion of skills, techniques and rationale to be used in the performance of this work. Can you please clarify what is intended by "skills?" Is a skill a position description?	<i>Skills are specific observable abilities required to perform the particular tasks required.</i>

TIALS-2 RFP Questions and Answers (2)

No.	Section	Page	Question/Comment	Answer
107	Amendment 2		Does this mean that the Government is looking for a complete Safety and Health Plan in Volume IV: Offer at the time of proposal submission (versus 30 days after contract award) that addresses every line item in L.9?	<i>Yes, the Government is looking for a description of the Offeror's general safety and health plan in accordance with Provision L.9 to be included in Volume IV. This is not a site-specific plan, which will be submitted in accordance with Clause H.8 (on pg. H-4 of the RFP) within 30 days after award.</i>
108	Amendment 2		Does this Amendment delete the requirement on Page L-15, TA1.e, "A discussion of the approach to implementing the safety, health, and environmental requirements of the SOW. Note: This does not replace the Safety and Health Plan requirement of NFS 1852.223-73 Safety and Health Plan which is required post award in Volume I: Mission Suitability, or are we still to provide a general description of the plan that the Government will see in Volume IV: Offer?	<i>This does not delete the requirement in Provision L.17, T.A.1.e but that would be a much higher level discussion covering the implementation of the requirements in the Section C, SOW. Those are site specific and the detailed site specific plan is not required until after award.</i>
109	Provision L.15	L-12	What are the guidelines for delivery (address, time) if submitting by overnight carrier?	<i>See Section A of the RFP (SF-33 cover page), Blocks 7 and 9.</i>
110	Provision L.17, T.A.1.e	L-15	Will the Government consider dropping TA1.e (Discussion of the approach to implementing the safety, health, and environmental requirements of the SOW) from the Technical Approach?	<i>No. See the response to question #108.</i>

There will be a 3d release of questions and answers as soon as possible covering the few questions for which the Government is still researching and composing answers.